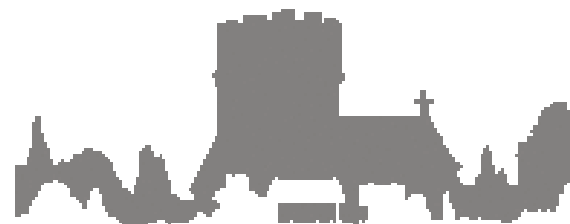


Ringling Round Devon



THE GUILD OF
DEVONSHIRE RINGERS

Newsletter 119 September 2020

LOCKDOWN ISSUE no.2

Note from the Editor - Competition

Spread throughout this issue there are pictures of 16 churches to be identified. Further details of the competition and a hint to help you are in a later article.

Guild AGM



Steve Coleman in full swing following the AGM

There were a lot of firsts at the Guild AGM this year. Because of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic it was clearly not possible to hold a meeting in the conventional manner so the committee bravely decided to hold the entire meeting online using Zoom. Drawing on the experiences of other Guilds and Associations in a similar predicament over 100 Guild members were presented with a very slick performance which got through the business in under an hour. Presenters worked from carefully crafted scripts and slides which provided the necessary information in a very concise format. All the existing officers were prepared to stand for another year so were elected en bloc. Because of the difficult times, the current Guild Master (Janet Ritterman) was persuaded to stay in post for a subsequent year, to be assisted by the incoming new master (Neil Deem).

Following the meeting the well-known presenter Steve Coleman gave a talk about ropesight. Initially he clearly found it hard to adjust to an audience with little feedback but quickly adapted his style and was able to interact with those watching once the problems of muting were sorted out and as people worked out how best to use the chat facility.

A report from Catherine Saunders (Mid Devon Branch) follows.

Ian Campbell

Guild Annual General Meeting 2020 - Report

A very well prepared and slick meeting took place via Zoom this year as we were unable to meet 'in person' due to the Covid-19 Coronavirus ongoing lockdown.

The meeting was extremely well attended, and certainly exceeded expectations, with somewhere in the region of 100 attendees. Out of a membership of about 650 this was great to see and certainly allowed the AGM to be quorate.

Appreciating that full minutes will most certainly follow, and after noting that the meeting had been recorded, I thought I would mention some of the main highlights of the business meeting for those who could not attend.

After the opening remarks and instructions for how the meeting was to proceed via Zoom, we swiftly moved to Charlotte Boyce, the Guild Treasurer, providing her report.

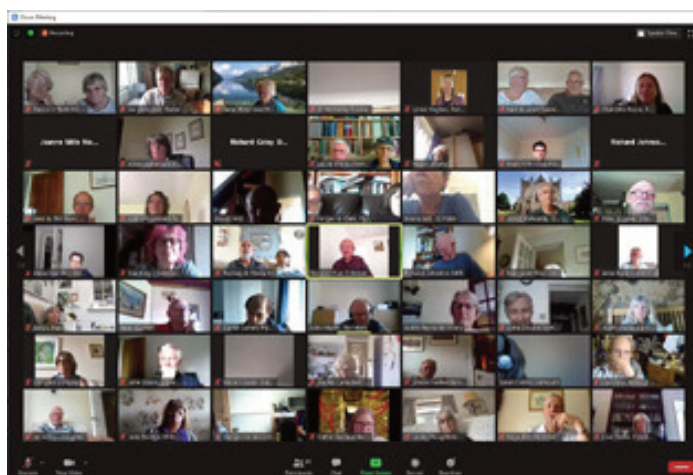
It was agreed that the Guild would make a donation to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF) of £2,235 this year, in line with one of the aims of the Guild to support the maintenance of bells and ringing.

Also discussed was the ongoing use of Zoom during the lockdown period and possibly even beyond, something the Guild will decide about in the future. The Guild has been paying a subscription of £14 per month to use Zoom since March 2020, and all agreed that it had been well worth it. There was also discussion around how Zoom could be utilised for fundraising activities while ringing in towers is not permitted, including having a 'virtual' Ringing Festival (16 October - 01 November) this year if we are still unable to ring in towers.

On the note of fundraising, encouragement was given to supporting the DCBRF through shopping via Amazon Smile. Whilst there is no feedback as yet about how successful this has been so far, it was noted that Guild members could support the DCBRF through this scheme with no additional cost to themselves, but with 0.5% of the purchase price going towards the fund.

A few attendees also shared that they have remembered the DCBRF in their Wills.

Janet Deem provided an update regarding the DCBRF position. Just under half of the DCBRF's income is from the Smale Bequest, about a quarter from donations and fundraising, and 13% and 14% coming from the Association and Guild respectively. Income received so far in 2020 has been mostly from the AGM donation (agreed £2235), followed by



Some of the attendees at the Guild AGM



Church 1

20% of income coming from branches and 7% from the Guild's Ringing Festival.

Anyone wishing to donate to the DCBRF should contact Mary Mears at dcbrftreasurer@devonringers.org.uk or contact one of their branch officers.

Alena Wardle then spoke regarding the proposal to increase the Guild subscription from £6 to £10 per year. It had been decided that this decision was to be deferred to next year's AGM as discussion would be difficult via a Zoom meeting and it had been noted that the Guild's income and outgoings for this year have been affected by the Covid-19 lockdown.

Alison Waterson, the Guild President, then moved on to the election of Guild officers. As all officers had agreed to stand again and there had been no further nominations, it was agreed that they would be elected en bloc. Neil Deem will take over the reins as Master from Janet Ritterman once ringing resumes, and Tim Payne will continue to act as the Independent Examiner of Accounts.

Turning attention to Guild activities for the remainder of the year, it is unclear at this stage whether the 6 and 8 bell striking competitions (17th October) will be able to go ahead this year due to the coronavirus, and advice regarding ringing is being carefully monitored.

Hopefully, however, ringing will have resumed by the time of the 2022 National Youth Contest, which will be hosted by Exeter on the first Saturday in July. Any queries regarding this event should be directed to John Martin, the Guild Secretary.

Thanks were given to Les Boyce, the Guild's Librarian, for his work in arranging for, and actually moving, the library to Exeter St Petrock, where it can be accessed by members.

Thanks were also given to those who have been involved in organising and presenting Zoom events for ringers to enjoy during the lockdown.

There was an opportunity for follow-up discussions at the Zoom event on Monday 29th June. Discussion included choosing the updated Guild logo and several attendees cast their vote on which of the three options they preferred.

It was noted that this year's annual report is available on-line only as it would not be practical nor economical to distribute printed copies due to coronavirus limitations. As the report is only available in electronic format, unfortunately some information has needed to be removed due to GDPR rules (for example names). Thanks were given to everybody involved with providing material for the annual report.

There was then a short comfort break (aka virtual ringers' tea!) before a very thought-provoking, entertaining and helpful discussion led by Steve Coleman about 'Acquiring Ropesight and Managing without it', which had been organised by the East Devon Branch.

All in all, a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all, albeit virtually, with many members suggesting that future AGMs could be held via Zoom, or at least utilising the facility as part of them.

Catherine Saunders

Central Council Annual General Meeting

5th September 2020

Because of the current regulations against large meetings, this year's Central Council meeting was held over the Internet using Zoom. The Guild arranged a separate meeting with our representatives and the Guild committee (and anyone else interested) beforehand to discuss the issues that were to be covered, and a follow-up meeting a couple of weeks afterwards. This immediate input and feedback has never been possible before – perhaps there are some benefits to lockdown!

A report from our representative Fergus Tracey is given below. We need to congratulate him (or is it commiserate!) on being elected the Council's Treasurer. As a result he feels unable to best represent the Guild so moves are afoot to find some new representatives. In the past this has required a lot of travelling and the giving up of a long weekend. Now it seems, even after lockdown, that some or all of our representatives may be able to attend 'virtually' which may make the proposition more attractive.

Ian Campbell

Central Council Report 2020

This was the first virtual meeting of the Central Council, with the President, Simon Linford, in the chair and the Zoom technology run expertly by Colin Newman, such that the meeting went as smoothly as if we were meeting in person.

After the opening procedural matters the first order of business was to elect the Guild of Clerical Ringers to the Central Council. Note was made that The Sherwood Youths had resigned their membership, and the number of vacancies on the council was at its highest level, while the number of members attending was the smallest for many years. Our Guild was represented by Lynne Hughes and Fergus Tracey.

The accounts were duly presented and approved. We then moved on to the summaries and updates from the various work groups, some of which were more interesting than others. Each work group presentation was followed by the opportunity to make points and ask questions of the leader. One of the more interesting points was to try and obtain an indication of how many towers have resumed ringing in a limited manner following the enforced closure.

Following these reports was an overview of the budget and plans for the following year: these include the plans to look at how we can become a Direct Membership Organisation and there will be various discussion groups taking place during the year, with all ringers encouraged to take part to express their thoughts.

We moved on to elections: Simon Linford as President, myself as Treasurer and Caroline Stockman as Independent Examiner. All the elections were unopposed and therefore did not require a vote.



Church 2

The next order of business was the motion to amend the rules to allow the election of small societies. The motion was proposed by Clive Whittaker and seconded by Linda Garton. A robust discussion followed, in which most of the points raised during the previous GDR Zoom meeting were presented. The discussion was interrupted by an adjournment to allow the AGM of *The Ringing World* to take place. After resumption further discussion ensued until the chat facility indicated that members were getting bored with the usual suspects, who were making points which had been previously mentioned. The motion required a two-thirds majority to pass and the result was 73% in favour: therefore, small societies can now become non-voting members.

The Ringing World AGM

This took place following the adjournment, with David Grimwood taking the chair and the Zoom handled again by Colin Newman.

The AGM started off poorly with a disclosure that some documents had been omitted from the filing of the accounts, which raised the possibility of a financial penalty being suffered. The accounts when presented should give a predicted loss this year of approximately £35,000 due to the drying up of donations given the lack of quarter peal and peal ringing.

Bob Creighton, a former member of the GDR, was elected to the board. There followed a discussion on the planned change from a company into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. This again started badly as the new constitution was not issued with the pre-AGM papers but provided by email on the morning of the meeting. The link provided in that email led to the incorrect information and the correct link was only given during the proposal. The discussion which followed very clearly showed the displeasure of the members for the rather inept performance of the board in this matter and some very searching questions were not answered satisfactorily. The motion was defeated and hopefully the board will take notice to rectify their shortcomings over this year.

Fergus Stracey, on behalf of the CC Representatives

Ringing with Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The 'Rule of Six' is now in force, allowing groups of up to six people to congregate outside or indoors (with some additional restraints). This opens up the possibility of ringing six bells where the rope circle is large enough, although ringing is still limited to 15 minutes. Ringing up to 12 handbells indoors is also a possibility.

A couple of towers (Elstow in Bedfordshire and St Paul's, Birmingham) have started ringing with the ringers on two floors to help social distancing. That will certainly test your ability to ring without ropesite! I wonder if any towers in Devon would be suitable for this treatment?

The latest guidance should be studied before any ringing is undertaken. It is available from the Central Council at:

<https://cccbr.org.uk/coronavirus/>

Ian Campbell



Church 3



Church 4

Guild Subscription Form

The Guild officers have received advice from Robert Brown, our Guild Safeguarding Officer that the Information Commissioner's Office is scrutinising the compliance of smaller charities such as the Guild of Devonshire Ringers with the General Data Protection Regulations and that we should consider improving the documentation we hold to show that our members have consented to the use and storage of their personal data.

The Guild officers have therefore been working on drafting a new Guild subscription form to help us comply with these requirements by both informing members about how we use their personal data and to gain the consent of members for those uses.

It is intended that the form will be available to members by the end of the year, so that it may be completed and submitted along with the 2021 subscription payment.

The new subscription form will also provide a number of additional benefits and opportunities as listed below :

- 1 Capture information about our members and to provide them with basic information about what we do with that information
- 2 Record the consent of our members for our use of that information
- 3 Provide information about the communication options which are available to our members
- 4 Provide an opportunity to members to make any optional donations to assist with activities supported by the Guild
- 5 Provide an opportunity for tax paying members to Gift Aid their subscription and any donations
- 6 Get a count of the number of printed reports requested by members for both 2019 and 2020 so that the Guild Committee can decide upon a printing policy

John Martin, Guild Secretary

Calling all budding performers!

With the Guild Ringing Festival in October having been cancelled due to the ongoing restrictions, the Monday evening Zoom during that week, ie 19th October, will be a special evening. The evening will be a variety evening with short performances of all types from Guild members.

I have been tasked with organising the evening and am looking for performers. Performances can be solo or group and can be live on the evening or recorded in advance, with video and/or sound. All performances types welcome- songs, dances, stories, poems, magic tricks, jokes, sketches, drag acts, contortionists, human cannonballing etc. Anything from 30 seconds to five minutes would be ideal.

The aim of the evening will be for the performers and Zoom audience to all have a jolly good laugh, to enjoy our members' talents and to raise some money for the DCBRF which, as many of you will know following the AGM, is likely to be in urgent need of funds with normal or increased demand but reduced income both from regular events and from a reduced return on its investments.

I am happy to work with performers who don't have ideas or those with ideas who don't want to perform. Just get in touch and I will be happy to

work out the best way for you to get involved. If you would like to be part of a group performance, let me know and I will be happy. Please let me know if you are interested in taking part. My email is pmcrichards@hotmail.co.uk. It would be great to have a good idea of the acts by the end of September or earlier.

Peter Richards

Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund and AmazonSmile

Our newest source of income has come to fruition as Amazon has donated £11.19 to the Devon Church Bell Restoration Fund (DCBRF). This was as a result of activity between 26th April (set up date) and 30th June, 2020. Whilst this may seem a very small amount, it has only been a couple of months when word was spreading slowly and prior to the presentation to some 100 members of the Guild at the Zoom AGM in June. So, to anyone who hasn't already switched from normal Amazon to Smile, please can we ask that you now shop on AmazonSmile at: <https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/276490-0>. Amazon will then donate to the DCBRF, at no cost to you.

AmazonSmile is now also available in the Amazon shopping app to all AmazonSmile customers using an iPhone or Android devices. When you have activated AmazonSmile in the app, every eligible purchase will automatically generate a donation to the DCBRF.

With our normal sources of income somewhat cut off due to coronavirus any ideas you have for fund raising would be gratefully received. Don't forget if you want to give a bit of the money saved by not being able to ring in the last five to six months please contact our treasurer, Mary Mears, and she will be very happy to supply you with details of how to give. The easiest way is by email and Mary's address is dcbrftreasurer@devonringers.org.uk.

Bell restoration and maintenance is continuing. I'm aware of two Devon towers having work completed on them only this week by one of the main bell hanging companies in the UK. So while ringing may be somewhat sporadic and for only short bursts on a Sunday with just a few of your tower members, bells and their fixtures and fittings continue to need repair and improvement so requests to the Devon bell fund will also continue. We expect to be **over £8,000 down in 2020** with 2021 not looking any better at the moment so please give generously.

Janet Deem

Guild Library Access to the Library

Saturday openings have been suspended during the pandemic, but the Library is still available to answer enquiries – just email librarian@devonringers.org. St Petrock's church remains closed to general visitors, but it is now possible for the Librarian to visit, retrieve and post out books to any member requiring an item. The catalogue is available on the Guild website at: https://devonringers.org.uk/gdr-media/pdf/library/Guild_Library_Catalogue_Author_publication.pdf. This contains links to many online texts of older books which you can access from home, but requests for print copies may be made to the Librarian. Members may have two free postal loans a year but are responsible for the cost of posting returns back to the Library.

A return to Saturday afternoon opening is planned from January although decisions on whether it is possible to open will need to be taken nearer the time. Until then it may be possible to arrange an appointment for a return to visit St Petrock's for research in the Library.

New Books

Two significant recent purchases have been made:

Christopher Dalton and Richard Jones – Exploring England's belfries: a pictorial essay. Bardwell Press, 2019

This is a fine collection of Christopher Dalton's exquisite photos of bells, frames and towers with a commentary by his colleague Richard Jones. Many of the examples are from Devon and Dorset. This is probably the nearest we are likely to get to a 'coffee-table' book of bellringing!

Tina Stoecklin and Simon Gay – Change-ringing on handbells. Volume 1: Basic techniques. Albany Publishing, 2020

This is a genuine beginner's handbook which assumes no prior knowledge. It is well organised and laid out with good illustrations and diagrams. You can read Mike Tompsett's review of this title at: <https://devonringers.org.uk/news-events/2020/book-review>.

Les Boyce

Regular Guild Zoom Meetings

Ever since the beginning of lockdown in March the Guild Secretary, John Martin, has been busy arranging talks and events on Monday evening for the Guild. Many of the more recent ones have been recorded and placed on YouTube. Anyone who would like to view one of these is invited to contact the secretary for details. Those meetings which are available so far are:

- Ringing at Westminster Abbey
- Central Council Rolls of Honour
- Matthew Higby Church Bell Engineer
- Bells of the National Trust
- Campanari Inglesi (full circle ringing in Italy)

The prize offered by David Hilling at the end of his talk about Westminster Abbey was won by James Kirkcaldy.

In order to thank John for his continuing efforts to keep the Guild together, Janet Ritterman (Guild Master) invited regular attendees to make a donation which she presented to John on 25th July. Since the maker of his current favourite beer, The Beer Engine in Newton St Cyres, was not opening until August, Janet purchased two 3-bottle gift packs from Red Rock Brewery in Bishopsteignton (which John used to frequent when he lived nearby) and enclosed, in a 'Thank you' card from us all, a cheque for £50.

Ian Campbell

In Memoriam Audrey King – Coffinswell – RIP



Audrey King died on 14th May. Sadly, under present restrictions, none of the ringers was allowed to attend the funeral. She last rang in August 2014, after which she felt unable to continue. For several years prior to that, she mostly rang for services at Coffinswell as she found the stairs at Kingskerswell increasingly difficult. However she continued to come on our outings for several years.

She was one of the founder members of our band when ringing recommenced in March 1987 and was one of only two ringers apart from myself who had previously been a ringer. She learned to ring at Ashbrittle in Somerset, and had not rung for about 20 years when she joined us. Although she did very little method ringing, she joined the Guild along with most of the band and remained a member until 2011. She was 74.

We were very sorry to hear of Audrey's death. Occasional visits to Coffinswell for weddings or Sunday service ringing meant a warm welcome from Audrey. Her son Brian is a ringer who rang quite a few quarter peals when he lived in Kingskerswell. He in Scotland with no bells locally but hopes to ring in her memory next time he is in Devon.

Philip Stevens

Roy Berry

We are sorry to report that Roy Berry passed away peacefully on the morning of Thursday 3rd September in the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Roy was the tower captain at Topsham for over 60 years. A fuller obituary is promised for the next issue of *RRD*.

Matt Pym

Mike Hallett

I am sorry to have to let you know that Mike Hallett, former Captain of Diptford, who had been ill for some time, passed away on Wednesday morning, 19th August.

Michael Webster

Aylesbeare Branch Keeping in touch at Topsham



On Thursday 30th July, the Topsham ringers got together for the first time in four months for a socially distanced walk around the town. Meeting outside the tower, we had a pleasant walk via the goat walk path and the cycle track to finally end up in the beer garden of The Bridge where refreshments were found! The weather turned out to be glorious and it was lovely to catch up with everyone in person. Along the way, we bumped into a couple of other ringing friends; Charlotte Boyce was also out enjoying the evening and John Langabeer was enjoying the beer at The Bridge!

Sadly, earlier on the same day one of our ringers, Tony Bradford, had a serious cycling accident and was taken to Derriford hospital. Tony is still making a slow recovery from some severe injuries and our thoughts are with him.

Topsham bells are now being rung properly again on a Sunday, with three bells rung within the current guidelines, and four most weeks by utilising a couple of family groups that ring. Since ringing resumed, we have had many positive comments from the residents even though the church services are still online. The bells are very much a part of Topsham life and it is lovely to hear that they are appreciated.

Matt Pym

Ringing at Withycombe Raleigh

We are ringing again at Withycombe Raleigh on a Sunday morning, for 15 minutes suitably PPE-ed, sanitised and observing all the recommended guidelines. It is good to be back on a rope again. We have all agreed that it is impossible to ring in a mask and avoid glasses steaming up, so we now do it sans specs, which is interesting in itself. How we all long for a return toprecedented times!

Roger King

Exeter Branch Bell Ringing resumes at Exeter Cathedral



Ringling while socially distancing and with masks

On Sunday 15th March, we rang the bells at Exeter Cathedral for what would be the last time for many months; none of us had imagined that it would be some eighteen weeks before they would ring out again, or that they would return to such an altered world. Lockdown created a sense of community and togetherness across the country, not least within the ringing community in Devon as bands met together over Zoom, including the Cathedral ringers who enjoyed a virtual session at the Internet Arms every Friday night.

However, the question that remained uppermost was when we would be able to return to ringing? Guidance from the CCCBR was published and we all began making our plans, measuring the spaces between our ropes and writing out our risk assessments to enable our bands to return safely to some limited service ringing. Here at Exeter Cathedral, we were one of the first places to see worship resume, with services restarting from Sunday 5th July; these too were very different with booking required, and social distancing in place. However, the traditional 10am Eucharist still sees over one hundred people come to worship at the Cathedral.

The Cathedral relies upon hundreds of volunteers to ensure the building can remain open for both visitors and congregations alike, and before we could return to ringing we had to attend an induction; this was the first time many of us had met face to face for months so it was a surreal experience as we were talked through the new signing in process and social distancing measures. The bells finally rang out for the first time on the morning of Sunday 19th July – just six bells and fifteen minutes of ringing – but the Dean, clergy and congregation were all delighted to hear the bells once again.



Some of the cathedral members catching up while socially distancing

Just as lockdown created unity, the return of bellringing has also been unifying – from the smallest parish church to the largest cathedral, we all now ring with the same voice, one which reminds everyone that life still continues very altered. We remain grateful to those who are able to come in to ring the Cathedral bells for Sunday services, but also look forward to the time when all of our band can meet together safely once again, a sentiment no doubt echoed across the county.

Clare Griffiths



Church 5

Michael and Lesley Cannon celebrate their Silver Wedding

Michael and Lesley were married in St Helen's church, Abingdon on 15th July 1995. To celebrate their Silver Wedding it was fortunate that the lockdown restrictions had been a little lifted so it was possible to have some friends over to their garden. A cake was produced which showed the couple and things that they are associated with. Lesley is shown as a nurse with some music and singing books, while Michael is shown in his steam engine attire, with bells and spanners. We wish them all the best for many more years together.



The cake



Cutting the cake

Ian Campbell



Church 6

Mid-Devon Branch Don Roberts is 90



Don ringing at Cockington, Torquay, 11th January

We send hearty congratulations to Don Roberts – elder statesman of the Branch and Guild. He was 90 on 5th August. Don is very well, keeping busy in his garden, and he sends greetings to all. A quarter peal of Grandsire Triples had been planned for Don to call at Kingsteignton but under present restrictions was not possible. However a quarter peal was rung – by coincidence at Kingsteignton, on handbells. This was the first time the band had been able to meet 'in the flesh' since lock-down and the delight to be back was perhaps the reason that a very well struck quarter peal was achieved.

Kingsteignton, Devon, Long Barton
Tuesday, 4 August 2020 in 32m (11 in G)
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1–2 Nigel Birt
3–4 Martin Mansley
5–6 Michael Tompsett (C)
Specially arranged and rung as a 90th birthday compliment to Don Roberts (Guild Vice-President) for tomorrow.



Nigel, Martin and Mike – socially distanced!

The Zoom / Ringing Room practice in lieu of St Marychurch practice was also dedicated to Don and some of the ringing recorded and sent to him. He replied that he was thrilled with all the ringing and absolutely determined that the Grandsire will be rung in due course.

Ringing Room, Devon
St Marychurch remote
Tuesday, 4 August 2020 in 40m
80 Various Maximus
Plain Hunt on 9 and 10, Rounds and Whittingtons on 12

1 Sheila Horder	7 David Wittchell
2 Janet Ritterman	8 Nigel Birt
3 Jeanette Thompson	9 Tim King
4 Catherine Saunders	10 Rodney Horder
5 Nicola Jones	11 Rowena Mansley
6 Neville Stanford	12 Martin Mansley (C)

A specially arranged remote practice to celebrate Don Roberts' 90th birthday on 5th August. Sending very best wishes from all in the Mid Devon Branch - so sorry it could not be the planned quarter peal.

Exeter, Devon, 64 Mount Pleasant Road
Saturday, 8 August 2020 in 40m (11 in G)
1280 Kent Treble Bob Major
1-2 Oliver Bates
3-4 Liz Chadwick
5-6 Tim Bayton (C)
7-8 Sue Sawyer
Compliments to Don Roberts on his 90th birthday this week.

Martin Mansley

Virtual Practices at Stokeinteignhead

Stokeinteignhead are having a virtual practice in Ringing Room on Monday evenings. We have managed plain courses of a range of methods, including Single Oxford Minor, Bastow Little Bob, and an attempt at Kent Treble Bob. We have also managed to augment to 8 and ring Grandsire Triples!

Rodney Horder

Excerpts from Mid-Devon Tower Talk

Keeping up the skills during Lockdown - Theory work

Learning methods and working out touches is something that you could try. There are thousands of methods out there and plenty of programs and apps to help. On the other hand you can learn a lot by old fashioned pen and paper. At the recent theory course we did a session on place notation and just working through writing out methods in this way teaches a tremendous amount about method construction. . There are many collections in place notation but the largest is at <https://ccabr.github.io/methods-library/index.html>
We would be keen to hear how you get on.

Zoom meetings

Those of us who thought that zoom was what fast cars or jet planes did have had a steep learning curve! I am sure you are aware that ZOOM is a way of meeting remotely via your computer or phone. Obviously, over the last few weeks meeting remotely has grown dramatically in importance.
At an early stage, the Guild realised the importance of keeping in touch with members during this period when we cannot meet in the normal way. Zoom has various levels of usage and to use it for any length of time requires a paid subscription. The Guild has taken out one of these and is able to 'host' meetings of members.



Church 7

Mid-Devon Branch Zoom meetings

Zoom Pub Quiz 9th April

Our first branch quiz was hosted by our secretary, Nigel Birt. Five rounds of questions had us scratching our heads a little! These included general knowledge, a ringing round and another where we had to take an imaginary journey round our branch and work out how far we would need to travel.
There was much hilarity and no pressure to tell the others how well (or badly!) we had done in each round. Thank you to Nigel and Debbie for hosting us and coming up with some great questions.

Zoom Pub Quiz 23rd April

After our first quiz Nigel asked if someone else would host the next one and the Mansley household offered to have a go. Again, five rounds were on offer but the total number of points available should have been 84!
Question master duties were shared between Martin and Wenna. We should have been doing alternate rounds but Martin discovered that it is far harder to run a quiz than to organise a ringing practice and Wenna had to take over for the final round when he gave away the answer to the first question! Rounds included guessing the colour missing from book titles, 'fours' (for example give the names of the four Beatles) and 'guess the country when given its national flower'. We must apologise profusely to Andrew. Sadly his attempt to score at least one point by giving the answer 'Graham' to almost every question failed completely as it was not the answer to any of them!
From that we are sure you can tell that it was again very light-hearted and another pleasant evening.

Branch Zoom Meeting Thursday 7th May

Our next meeting took the form of a presentation about the recent work done at Kingskerswell. John Rees was project manager of this great team effort and it was fascinating to hear the inside story of this, the newest ring of 8 in Devon.
Whilst we cannot meet to actually ring, these meetings are an important way of keeping in touch. Please join us if you possibly can. Sadly, Zoom had rather a bad press early on in the crisis, but it is now safe and trusted by a wide range of organisations including our government. If you are unsure how to get started please ask. Our secretary, chairman and ringing master are using it regularly and we will willingly give advice, if required.



Church 8

Zoom Pub Quiz 21st May

This time it was our chairman, Rodney Horder with Sheila who gave us a pub quiz. One of their general knowledge questions had us frantically doing sums for the rest of the evening. In current branch towers how many bells are there altogether? We will let you think about that one!

Other rounds asked us to name pictures of ten chocolate bars that had been sliced across the middle, name ten pictured types of pasta and identify famous buildings or landmarks from aerial views. Again, a very light-hearted evening with much head scratching during the quiz but plenty of laughter during the answers. Many thanks to Rodney and Sheila for putting it together and our Secretary, Nigel Birt for hosting again. All this is possible due to the Guild having taken out a subscription to Zoom so we are getting good value from our subscriptions despite there being no ringing at present. Do think about joining in – it really is very easy!

WhatsApp groups

This crisis has seen a massive rise in groups using WhatsApp to keep in touch. The ability to pass on photographs and other information really helps us to communicate easily.

Teignmouth Group

Thanks to Julia Brett for this brief report:

The Teignmouth band of ringers keep in touch daily, if not hourly, via WhatsApp. We send lots of funny memes to keep our spirits up. We also telephone each other. The band does a lot to support key workers and those working at home within our band. This is much appreciated!



Church 9

St Marychurch Group

One of the by-products of this crisis is the way we have learned so much about the other interests and skills of our ringers, outside our ringing activities. The St Marychurch group has had many examples of this – Wendy has shown examples of her craft work from lace making and painting to very elaborate quilts. We have seen a very complicated jigsaw done by Cath and her mum and shared several recipes including Parkin (Hilary) and Porridge Bread (Janet). Not to be outdone the men have also been busy and Mike has been cultivating a wide variety of vegetables for the Tompsett household to look forward to later in the year, while Martin has been producing a variety of woodwork articles in his workshop. These are just a few examples of our daily chats.



Bob Crowley's CD / Download

You should have seen Bob's recent posting about the CD he has produced in memory of his wife, Julie. It is being sold to support the Alzheimer Society, so a very worthy cause. More details on his website <http://carecomfortcompassion.org/>.

St Marychurch Ringing room progress

From early struggles we are making steady progress. It was good to be able to mark the 75th anniversary of VE day with 10 'bells':

Ringling Room, Torquay

Friday, 8 May 2020 in 15m

50 Rounds, Queens, Tittums

- 1 Rowena Mansley (Barton)
- 2 Catherine Saunders (Cardiff)
- 3-4 Neville Stanford (St Marychurch)
- 5 Janet Ritterman (Newton Abbot)
- 6 Jeanette Thompson (Chelston)
- 7 Wendy Rennie (Torquay)
- 8 Tim King (St Marychurch)
- 9 Martin Mansley (Barton)
- 10 Martin Mansley (C)

Rung by a St Marychurch practice band to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day

We were even joined by some interested parishioners.

Since then Plain Bob Minor (plain courses) have been scored and this week we have managed plain hunt on 8 with the goal of Bob Major on the horizon.



Ringling room in the News

We were delighted to see an excellent short feature on the BBC 10 o'clock news on Saturday 30th May. Bryn Reinstadler and Leland Kusmer, who were two of our presenters last week, were interviewed and demonstrated Ringling Room. One of the ringers from Southwark Cathedral was also interviewed. The whole was a very respectful and well put together feature. We hear that the Ringling Room Facebook pages have had an unprecedented number of hits since the programme. Perhaps this lockdown will have a silver lining and we will get more recruits once we are back in our towers!

Great to hear and obvious that Mid Devon Branch members are at the cutting edge of a new approach to ringing. Not something you hear very often!



Church 10

Thursday 16 July 'Help!' – a discussion of resources for ringers

Martin Mansley led this discussion with a PowerPoint presentation featuring some of the, mainly online, sources of information and training for ringers. This meeting was not as well supported as some but there was still useful discussion and it was good to have Richard Johnston with us. Richard is very involved with much of the development of the peripherals for sites such as Ringling Room and Handbell Stadium. It is now possible to use handbell sensors with Ringling Room and Handbell Stadium includes virtual ringers who move their bells in a realistic fashion.

Joint Zoom / Ringling room meeting with South West Branch Saturday 8th August

You will remember that for the last few years we have been joining the South West Branch for a 10 bell practice in August. Obviously we could not join them in person this year but we were invited to a joint Ringling Room session on Saturday evening.

This was a very light-hearted meeting – virtual and remote ringing is far from easy but it was very clear that 'practice makes perfect' and those taking part were able to produce some very acceptable ringing. Initially we tried 10 bell ringing of plain hunt. Then two 'breakout' rooms were used and with eight in one and seven in the other we were able to practise on 8 bells (Fergus Stacey rang 2!). This band had several goes at Cambridge Major and then Grandsire Triples. We then reconvened and rang more on 10 including a bob course of Grandsire Caters.



Most of the participants (photo courtesy Janet Ritterman)

Resumption of ringing Alphington

Thanks to Michael Webster who forwarded this message from John Staddon:

For some weeks now Paul Ramsbottom and I have been ringing the chimes at Alphington on alternate Sundays before the church's 11 am Zoom service. From this Sunday I will also ring them at Kenn [only 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month though]. It may start at Ide as well soon.

I wonder how many of our towers have ringable chimes still as we have heard of quite a few that have had the ropes removed and thus silenced any chances of any bells in a tower being rung during the current coronavirus restrictions. Is there a list of those still operational in Devon? Held maybe by the Association or the Guild? Please let me know. Maybe we can, the Ringlies and others, try to organise to ring all our chimes on June 26th 2021.

Not sure how many of our branch towers have usable chimes – I am aware that there are hemispherical bells at Landscope which Peter Bill chimes regularly. Any of you ring Ellacombe in the branch?

John Staddon

Kingskerswell

We have now rung for the last two Sundays at Kingskerswell. We are only allowed four people in the tower with a maximum time of 15 minutes ringing, and we have to be out of the tower five minutes before the service is due to start. I tried to persuade the Health and Safety officer to allow five to ring when two members of the same family ring, but to no avail.

No services at Coffinswell yet. As far as we understand it the CC guidance would allow two members from the same household to stand closer together than 2 metres.



Church 11

Our H&S officer is very strict with his guidance which means he can only fit a maximum of 20 in the church, so there are two short communion services at 10am and 11am to be booked in advance. We are just ringing for the 10am but we have permission to ring for both providing the same four people ring the same bell. I have eight ringers who are prepared to ring under these conditions.

A service has been held at Abbotskerswell, where a maximum of ten people was allowed. I should imagine it would be much the same at Coffinswell should a service be held there. The ruling is now that face coverings must be worn and the CC recommend that anyone exempt from face coverings should not be allowed to ring.

We know that Brixham have started to ring again with similar conditions to Kingskerswell. Is your tower ringing? Please let us know and tell us anything about your experience that might help others.

Philip Stevens

Old Photos



We have recently been given a couple of old photographs. Some of you with long memories may remember a branch outing to Gloucestershire, possibly in the early 1980s. We were going to ring at Dursley (Wenna's home tower when she was learning) mid-afternoon so she rang her parents to ask if there was a suitable café for a cup of tea. They did not know of one but invited everyone to their house instead! Thus a 52 seat coach landed in their residential road and a band of thirsty ringers took advantage of their hospitality. The photos show Wenna's father chatting to a few faces you might recognise – yes, they were that young once! The pictures are not good quality, but we thought they may stir a few memories!



Martin Mansley

East Devon Branch Five Months of Lockdown

My diary says, 'Sunday 23rd August, ringing at St Nicholas 10:50 am'. This is the first ringing since the beginning of lockdown in March; it gives us hope. We have all missed the opportunity to ring real bells during this time, but then came the thought, 'will we remember how to do it'. Of course we did, even if ringing on three bells felt decidedly odd. I know, until three years ago we only had three bells, so it was just like the old days, but not quite; we have improved over the years. Our tower captain Lisa had the unenviable task of deciding which three ringers it should be. She decided to ring with the oldest and the youngest members of the band, Trevor and Sophie. It was only 15 minutes before morning service, but it gave everyone a lift. Real satisfaction came when villagers, not all regular church goers, sent messages saying how nice it was to hear the bells again.



Three ringing 'outlaws', Trevor, Sophie and Lisa.

We may not have been ringing these last few months, but we have kept in touch through the marvel that is Zoom. This has been especially true of the Combe Raleigh Friday Group with their virtual Coffee mornings each week. Recently they held a 'Would I lie to you' morning. Each participant produced three statements, two true and one false. Who knew that one was once a dancer on a TV show, another worked in the House of Commons, yet another measured royal feet to ensure the children had properly fitting shoes? At the other end of the spectrum one ringer was such a brat that he threw a plate of stew into his primary school teacher's face! We believe he has mellowed quite a bit in the intervening years, thank goodness. A limerick week produced some not always complimentary rhymes about our fellow ringers, but all were taken with good humour. Then we have regular quizzes and musical contributions from Sue and Charles as well as the general chitchat that goes on whenever ringers meet. It has been a delight and we have all learnt so much about and from each other. When we get back to normal we will all remember these times with some happy memories. Let us hope and pray that normality will not be too long in coming.

Trevor Hitchcock – Combe Raleigh

Lockdown Handbells – a beginner's perspective

I began ringing handbells in June 2017 and very quickly bought a pair of Action XL motion controllers so that I could practise on Beltower. Under the welcome guidance of Tim Bayton and his helpers I managed to ring a smattering of quarter peals of Bob Minor on all pairs but within a year of starting I had to put my handbell ringing on hold as family matters demanded more of my time.

Fast forward to a few weeks into the Covid-19 lockdown. I had been using Ringing Room for tower bells and some basic handbells and was curious to see how Discord compared with Zoom as the communication tool. On my first venture into the Changeringing channel on Discord I asked if anyone would be able to 'show me around'. Within minutes John Cater had contacted me and explained how Discord works. 'Have you got controllers?' he asked, and then promptly invited me into Handbell Stadium where we rang Plain Hunt Minimus. A few minutes later he had messaged another ringer on Discord who kindly joined us for a plain course of Bob Minor. What a start for me – far more than I could possibly have expected! By mid-June John had set up my first proper practice and asked Gill Hughes if she would make up the band. Typically we would meet in Discord and go to Handbell Stadium. I digress, but this 3D simulator is absolutely superb. I have always found it quite difficult to find

a band to practise with but this software has revolutionised handbell ringing, enabling us to ring with any willing ringers, anywhere. All you need is a pair of motion controllers (a very realistic substitute for real handbells) and a decent internet connection and off you go. Furthermore it meets the performance criteria set out by the Central Council so all performances count. Genius! I feel certain that Handbell Stadium will continue long term, well beyond this pandemic crisis as the benefits to handbell ringers at all levels are clearly far reaching.

My first practice turned out to be a theory lesson as soon as I discovered that John and Gill ring by place notation. Although this isn't a new concept for me, it is in connection with handbells. I've come to embrace it as it has simplified the learning process for me. Three years ago I had moved on to Little Bob after Plain Bob – on my own, practising on Beltower. I found it tricky at first but steadily improved by repeated practice. During my second practice with John and Gill I rang plain courses of Little Bob and Double Bob by place notation, then touches of each followed by spliced Plain, Little and Double.

At each practice I was introduced to more and more plain minor methods: Single Oxford, Single Court, Single Cambridge Cyclic Bob, Single College, London New Bob (irregular), Reverse Court, St Clement's, Double Oxford and now I'm working on Oxford Treble Bob on 1-2 and 5-6. Sometimes John would splice methods too to keep me on my toes.

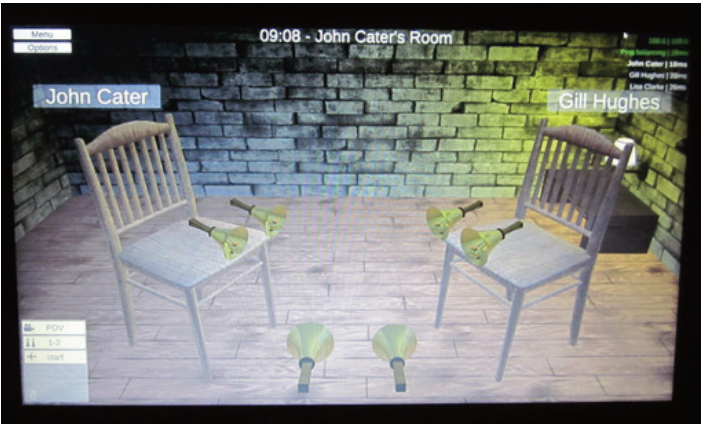
One or two practices a week over a couple of months have enabled me to tackle all these plain methods. I could never have rung them in a matter of weeks without the place notation way of thinking and in fact it's a requirement for Learning the Ropes Handbells Level 4. Ringing by place notation is incredibly flexible as you can easily substitute one place notation for another. For example, the 'phrasing' for Single Oxford is 4ths, 2nds, 4ths around the lead end and hunt, hunt, hunt around the half lead. Once 3rds (36) and 5ths (56) have been mastered, the three hunts around the half lead can be replaced with 3rds, 5ths, 3rds and, hey presto, you have Double Oxford. Plain Bob is all plain hunting apart from 2nds (12) at the lead end but if the hunt at the half lead is replaced by 5ths you have Double Bob and if the three hunts around the half lead are replaced by three lots of 3rds, you have St Clement's.

This is a great way of looking at methods generally and opens up the possibility of trying endless plain minor methods which helps to develop confidence and a sense of achievement. I found myself ringing methods with no knowledge of the blue line whatsoever. To begin with, my brain was trying to catch up with my hand movements and we needed to ring quite slowly but, with practice and growing confidence, it became more automatic and the speed could increase.

For anyone thinking about having a go at handbell ringing I would recommend starting with place notation as it gets you a fair way down the road of building up a basic repertoire. I'm aware this isn't the only way to ring handbells but for a beginner like me it's been extremely useful. I must admit that with some of the more complex methods I picture the patterns in my mind as well but for simpler methods I just stick to place notation.

I have just rung my first quarter peal by place notation – St Clement's on 1-2. It was the first on Handbell Stadium for all three of us and these days we tend to use Zoom. Before starting, we took care to ensure that everyone's mobiles, landlines and door bells were on silent or switched off to avoid any interruptions. Also, we had a maximum of one hour as my network provider had an upgrade scheduled so not much of a window

for any restarts. No pressure then! We needn't have worried as the engineers were late starting. In the event it went relatively smoothly and I'm pleased to say we had no connection issues that hampered our efforts. I think we were all quite chuffed and this quarter completed my Learning the Ropes Handbells Level 3.



Thank you so much, John and Gill, for giving me your time and expertise to help me progress and thank you also to Graham John for developing the outstanding Handbell Stadium 3D.

To think I picked up my controllers again just two and a half months ago...

Lisa Clarke, Combe Raleigh

Look into the future

At the AGM and the Internet Arms on the following Monday there was some talk of future levels of Guild subscription and the format of the Guild report and *Ringing Round Devon*. Before the Guild committee make hard recommendations perhaps it would be good for the general membership to express their opinions. Let me start with my three pennies worth.

With my first penny I'd like to say that the present cost of Guild membership is a bargain and if it went to the banded about figure of £10 it would still be excellent value. Just one thing, I feel a reduced fee for minors would perhaps encourage more young people.

With my second penny I think the on-line version of the Guild report was an amazing effort by all concerned. Having said that I still prefer the printed version, I find that much easier to use. Not all of Devon has good internet access, nor do we all have smartphones.

My final penny goes to say, please don't mess around with *Ringing Round Devon*. This is surely the very best magazine of its type. The printed copy in the tower is often read by visitors and admired: we need it.

My last thought I hope I can have for free; if the membership fee is increased I am sure the income will easily allow for printed copies of the Guild report and *Ringing Round Devon*. With that it is over to the membership to let their committee members know what they think.

Trevor Hitchcock



Church 12

Other News

Navigating the Email lists

I have had discussions with some branch secretaries about the mailing list facility available via the Guild web provider and have been asked for some more information. I have put a document together which might help you all understand a bit about how the mailing list facility works and how once set up it then becomes the responsibility of individual members to maintain their own subscription to your branch mailing list. This document is being put on the Guild website. Alternatively, you can request a copy from me.

Any branch member can subscribe to the branch mailing list and will directly receive any message you send to the mailing list address; this then removes any reliance on messages being forwarded by the tower captain or others. A full list of available mailing lists is maintained at:

<https://lists.devonringers.org.uk/mailman/listinfo>

which includes a number of special interest groups. It is easy to join the list for your branch if you are not already subscribed (at no cost!) so that you can receive regular notifications of events. For example, the details of the Guild Zoom sessions are distributed by the Guild Secretary to the branch secretaries who then forward them to their members.

John Martin

You may have missed...

Rosie's progress

One of the problems of isolation is finding someone to ring with without breaking the rules. Is a robot the way forward? We look forward to seeing how this develops. Graham Firman has designed Rosie the robot and coupled it (her?) up to Abel. The first results are promising.

<https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/view.php?id=1341535>

Martin Mansley

Note from Editor: This link includes a link to a video showing the robot ringing a handbell to a course of Plain Bob Minor with three real people.

Video of Kings nympton Bellringers

Thanks to Anne Bailey who forwarded this link to a video about the call change band at Kingsnympton

<https://youtu.be/asquhkFS5j4>

Hope you find it interesting

Martin Mansley



Church 13

Notable Ringing Events

Peals

First Peal since March for the Guild

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Whimple, Devon, 17 Bramley Gardens

Saturday, 25 July 2020 in 2h 21 (15 in C)

5088 Kent Treble Bob Major

Composed by James W Holdsworth (Op 2b)

1-2 Oliver Coldrick

5-6 Matthew J Hilling (C)

3-4 Lynne P Hughes

7-8 David Hird

First since March for all and for the Guild



L to R: Matt, David, Oliver, Lynne

First peal of Surprise on an inside pair

Guild of Devonshire Ringers

Whimple, Devon, 17 Bramley Gardens

Sunday, 30 August 2020 in 2h 22 (15 in C)

5088 Yorkshire Surprise Major

Composed by Graham A C John

1-2 Oliver Coldrick

5-6 Matthew J Hilling (C)

3-4 Oliver C Bates

7-8 Lynne P Hughes

First of surprise in hand on an inside pair: 3-4.

Quarter Peals

First ever quarter peal on distributed Dumbbells

The Dumbbell Society

Ringing Room, World

Saturday, 15 August 2020 in 51m

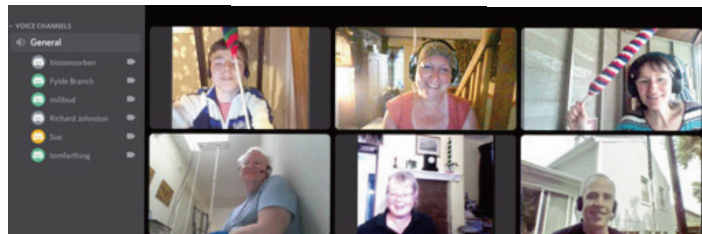
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Monica Hollows (St Annes, Lancashire; DIY bell based on John Norris' design)
- 2 Sue Marsden (Peterborough, UK; Saxilby Simulator, The Bathroom dumbbell)
- 3 Tom Farthing (Naperville, Illinois, USA; Farthing dumbbell, wheel diam 42 inches)
- 4 Alexander P Johnson (Hemsworth, UK; based on John Norris dumbbell)
- 5 Richard H Johnston (Plymtree, Cullompton, Devon; Johnston's Tyes mini-dumbbell, wheel diam 14 5 inches) (C)
- 6 Milica Reardon (Caterham, UK; Milica's Maypole Dumbbell, Caterham)

The first quarter peal rung using distributed dumbbells.

Used an interface developed by Richard Johnston, performed in Ringing Room with simulated sound.

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of VJ Day 1945



The band that took part in the distributed quarter peal

First on Ten bells

Exeter, Devon, 64 Mount Pleasant Road
Saturday, 1 August 2020 in 48m (15 in C)
1296 Little Bob Royal
Composed by T M Bayton
1-2 Lynne Hughes
3-4 Sue Sawyer
5-6 Tim Bayton (C)
1st on 10: 9-10.

7-8 Oliver Bates
9-10 Liz Chadwick

Culmination of QP Project

Dawlish, Devon, 17 East Cliff Road (in the orchard)
Tuesday, 14 July 2020 in 33m (11 in G)
1260 Plain Bob Minor
1-2 Sue Sawyer
3-4 James Kirkcaldy
5-6 Lynne Hughes (C)
Completes the project - one in each of our gardens on our own sets of bells (following an initial quarter online)



Sue, James and Lynne

Completed the 41 Regular Surprise Minor Methods

Bovey Tracey, Devon, Sorrento
Wednesday, 26 August 2020 (8 in C)
1440 Spliced Surprise Minor (2m)
2m: Annable's London, Warkworth
1-2 Jill Wigney
3-4 Peter Richards
5-6 Mike Wigney (C)
Completes the 41 regular surprise minor methods in quarters: 3-4



Church 14

Two Firsts

Exeter, Devon, 3 Hoopern Avenue
Monday, 6 July 2020 in 35m (12 in F)
1296 Plain Bob Major
Composed by Oliver C Bates
1-2 Ian Campbell
3-4 Oliver Bates (C)
First blows on an inside pair - 5-6
First of Major in hand as Conductor

5-6 William Regan
7-8 David Hird

Bristol Major on Ringing Room

Ringing Room, Devon
Wednesday, 15 July 2020 in 49m
1312 Bristol Surprise Major
1-2 Oliver Bates (Exeter)
3 Sue Sawyer (West Raddon)
4 James Kirkcaldy (Exeter)
5 David Hird (Exeter)
6 Ian Campbell (Exeter)
7-8 Matthew Hilling (Whimble) (C)

Why my ears will fall off

When I was about twelve I was told I needed glasses and was given those horrible wire things with spring loaded sides that pulled on your ears.

When I was twenty-one, to my delight, I was given my grandmother's drop earrings. The downside was that some butcher pierced my ears at different heights, so that one hangs lower than the other and though beautiful they are quite heavy. Now I'm a bit older the hearing isn't so good, so I've had to get hearing aids and yes, you guessed it, they too hang from my ears. I've now been told that I can't go out unless I wear a face mask and that too hangs from my ears with some stretchy elastic.

I tell you, if there is anything else they want to hang from my ears, I'm not going to do it, as I'm sure that my ears will fall off!

Grumpy Granny

Editorial

When ringing was stopped by law(!) in March, only the hardened cynics suggested that we might not be back to ringing 'normally' until Christmas. But now it looks as though it may well be after that! However we cannot be stopped from enjoying our hobby that easily. Many ringers tried out Ringing Room, and several have taught themselves to ring handbells using this and Handbell Stadium. With the more recent relaxation on meeting up outside several have graduated to 'real' handbells; the handbell peal on 25th July was the first peal for the Guild since the one at Wobbly Bob's on 17th March.

Most handbell attempts have been held in various gardens, much to the amusement of the neighbours, no doubt, but as the weather turns colder the new regulations allowing six people to congregate indoors (with suitable distancing) will allow handbell ringers to keep warm!

Of particular note is the quarter peal on distributed bells, including one in Devon, despite some well-known ringers previously saying that it wouldn't work! Ringing on tower bells has gradually restarted and is also helped by the 'rule of six', although many towers cannot provide sufficiently distanced ropes. Ringing on 1,4,6,8 on a Sunday morning at Heavitree is not too bad a sound, though a little different from Surprise Major! But the limitation on ringing only for 15 minutes makes it hard to get a band that is prepared to ring for such a short period of time. Let's hope that the latest surge in infections does not further limit ringing.

A number of towers have reported the use of Ellacombe chimes for services. In Exeter the chimes at Pinhoe have been rescued from the floor and refixed, while an examination of the ones at Heavitree once the church was accessible showed that two ropes had broken during the interval. Reports have been received indicating that the chimes at Alphington, Kenn and Ide are now being used regularly. You may not know that there is an international celebration for the 200th anniversary of the invention of Ellacombe chimes. Details are below. I thought that they were invented at Clyst St George when Ellacombe was the incumbent but this is not, apparently, the case.

Items in the most of the recent RRDs have shown the meteoric rise of Oliver Bates with his ringing. We send him our best wishes as he starts his medicine course at the University of Birmingham and will look out for him doing lots of ringing there! He is already down to ring on Sunday at the Bull Ring.

In the meantime, I urge you to help out with local ringing as much as you can, and to take part in the Guild and branch functions that are mostly being held on-line. It is important for the future of ringing that we keep up the interest and restart teaching new learners as soon as we can.

Ian Campbell

Ellacombe Chimes – a Celebration

From: Mike Gates mg122@btinternet.com

Sent: Thursday, 2 July 2020, 11:29:40 BST

Subject: Worldwide Celebration of Ellacombe Chimes

We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the invention of the Ellacombe Chimes, in a year's time from now, on 26 June 2021. We are planning to ring bells across the world. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of this celebration. This is an opportunity that will help promote bell ringing throughout the world and will be a wonderful opportunity to publicise the work you do.

Two hundred years ago the vicar of St Mary's church in Bitton in Gloucestershire had had enough of unruly and often drunken bell ringers and devised a mechanism so that one person could ring the church bells and do this from the vestry without the need to ascend the church tower. Since then, hundreds of churches throughout the world have installed the 'Ellacombe Chimes', named after their inventor H.T. Ellacombe. The Ellacombe tune is also a popular hymn.

Please let us know if you would like to participate, so that we can include you in the publicity and press coverage for the event.

Further details on the Ellacombe Chimes are available at:

<http://www.bittonhistory.org.uk/ellacombe-chimes/>

<https://www.stmarysbitton.org.uk/bells.html>

<http://www.churchside1.plus.com/Goldhanger-past/Ellacombe.htm>

Mike Gates, Secretary Bitton Parish History Group

Central Council YouTube competitions

The July competition for the best striking on eight bells or more resulted in 21 videos which can be seen at:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLmJrg8h0wm_qAhtfbgHvRlvO50Ri3qZS6.

There were several entries from the Devon Association ringing call changes, with the winning entry being call changes from Bridgerule. The Guild is represented by the Exeter Cathedral band ringing their winning piece at the National 12-bell competition in Exeter in 2019.

The August competition was won by the Pillaton and St Mellion Handbell Ringers ringing a plain course of Plain Bob Triples – except that it was done by 'lapping' the bells (switching them around on a table) and with closed handstroke leads (even starting at backstroke!) creating a mesmeric effect with their perfect striking which reminded me of Geoff Hill's group ringing handbells at the annual ringers' Christmas service. I rather doubt that this will happen this year though.

Full details of the monthly competitions and videos of all the competed entries is available from the CCCBR website at:

<https://ccabr.org.uk/youtube-competition/>

Ian Campbell

David Hird



David Hird in a silly hat
taken at the Guild Striking competition in 2016

Lynne Hughes

The Great Devon Bake Off or 'cream tea, anyone?' ...

I've always been fond of making scones and only wish I could have the same success with Victoria sponges. You know, the ones that are so light and fluffy that they need to be tethered for fear of floating away. I therefore stick with what I know, to the extent that in 1994 when the Guild AGM was held at Exeter St Mark and a posed photograph of Guild members taken outside the west door, I baked scones for one hundred people at the ringers' tea in the afternoon!

Fast forward to these strange times of lockdown and filling our days with new pursuits, and I can often be found having some lightweight email banter with Peter Bill to compare notes on jam making, crème pâtissière and scones. Soon we are enjoying a socially distanced cream tea together in the garden when John Martin, who wanted in any case to hand over a memory stick to Peter, hotfoots it over to join us on a gloriously warm summer afternoon. This is now something of a distant memory, but Peter, John and I continue to share culinary ideas and are currently working on cheese scones.



Peter's first attempt

We now plan to meet very shortly and bring our cheese scones for tasting. Hopefully Ian and Charlotte will be present to act as judges: by implication Charlotte will act as our Mary Berry and Ian as Paul Hollywood, in best Great British Bake Off tradition.

STOP PRESS - The Great Devon Cheese Scone Bake Off

Date: Tuesday 15th September

Venue: John and Charlotte's garden

Challenge: to produce a plate of five perfectly formed cheese scones. After some heavy-duty munching, washed down with plenty of coffee, the comments came through: 'lovely cheesy flavour', 'long paprika aftertaste', and 'beautiful light texture'. And the final result from Ian and Charlotte, our judges, was a democratic draw - what could be fairer?



John, Wendy and Peter each with their offerings

Wendy Campbell



Church 15

Ringling Quiz Answers

I had zero responses from the quiz in the last issue but thought that you might like the answers in any case.

- 1 **40320 E on 8** - 40320 = Extent on 8
- 2 **J J P 12 P** - J J Parker's 12 part
- 3 **L 2, T G, S G** - Look to...treble's going...she's gone
- 4 **1668 T by R D** - 1668 Tinnitinalogia by R Duckworth
- 5 **2 and a P, 1 and T** - 2 and a penny, 1 and tuppence (Rule for Erin)
- 6 **84 C in a P C of S T** - 84 Changes in a Plain Course of Stedman Triples
- 7 **C 3, M 1 and C in R** - Count 3, miss one and catch in rounds
- 8 **82, W of E in H** - 82, Weight of Emmanuel (Liverpool Cathedral Tenor) in Hundredweight
- 9 **1295, L of the D B** - 1295, length of the Dog's Bollocks
- 10 **H 4** - Horton's four
- 11 **RC is a 10 B C** - RollerCoaster is a 10 bell change
- 12 **27 C B, R** - 27 course block reduced
- 13 **1001 C C P** - Carpet Cleaner Peel
- 14 **1677 C by F S** - 1677 Campanalogia by Fabian Stedman
- 15 **2 S in H O** - 2 Singles in Holt's Original
- 16 **10 and a H E in a Q P of D** - 10 and a half extents in a quarter peal of doubles
- 17 **The T S is a 10 B C** - The Tewkesbury Shield is a 10 Bell Competition
- 18 **N 12 B S C** - National 12 Bell Striking Competition
- 19 **705 C in C W B O S** - 705 calls in Colin Wyld's Bobs Only Stedman
- 20 **D 4, M 2, D 4, P** - the R for C M - dodge 4 miss 2 dodge 4, places in the rule for Cambridge Maximus
- 21 **5600 M P of C** - 5600 Middleton's peal of Cambridge
- 22 **8 S in 1 H** - 8 stone in 1 hundredweight.
- 23 **N S 23 S** - Norman Smith's 23 spliced
- 24 **4 S G** - Four Shires Guild
- 25 **60 on T** - 60 on Thirds
- 26 **1717 F P of G C** - first peal of Grandsire caters?
- 27 **270 W of B B in H** - 270 Weight of Big Ben in Hundredweight
- 28 **Y O M 5 F S the B of S M** - You owe me 5 farthings say the bells of St Martins
- 29 **14 C in a P of S R** - 14 courses in a peal of surprise royal
- 30 **1993 F P on 16 T B** - 1993 First Peal on 16 Tower Bells
- 31 **A 6 S the E of D** - A 6 Score - the Extent of Doubles
- 32 **R I 2000** - Ring In 2000
- 33 **The 9 T by D L S** - the 9 tailors by Dorothy L Sayers

Ian Campbell

(Mostly) Devon Historic Churches Trust

Oliver's ride and stride day quiz

On 13th September, as part of the Devon Historic Churches Trust's 'Ride and Stride' day, Oliver Coldrick cycled from his home in Woodbury to meet with his son, Thomas, in Wellington. He took photographs of each of the churches that he visited. Can you identify them all and count the total number of bells?

- 43 MILES
- 16 Church of England Churches (see pictures)
- 4 Cheese and pickle sandwiches
- 2 pints of cider
- 2 clocks showing the wrong time
- 1 QUESTION: What is the total number of bells in or on these churches?

Hint: Following the route on a map might help...

Answers please to the Editor. Full answers will be provided next time. And while you are at it, how about making a donation to the Devon Historic Churches Trust at: <https://www.justgiving.com/devonhistoricchurches> ?



Church 16

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